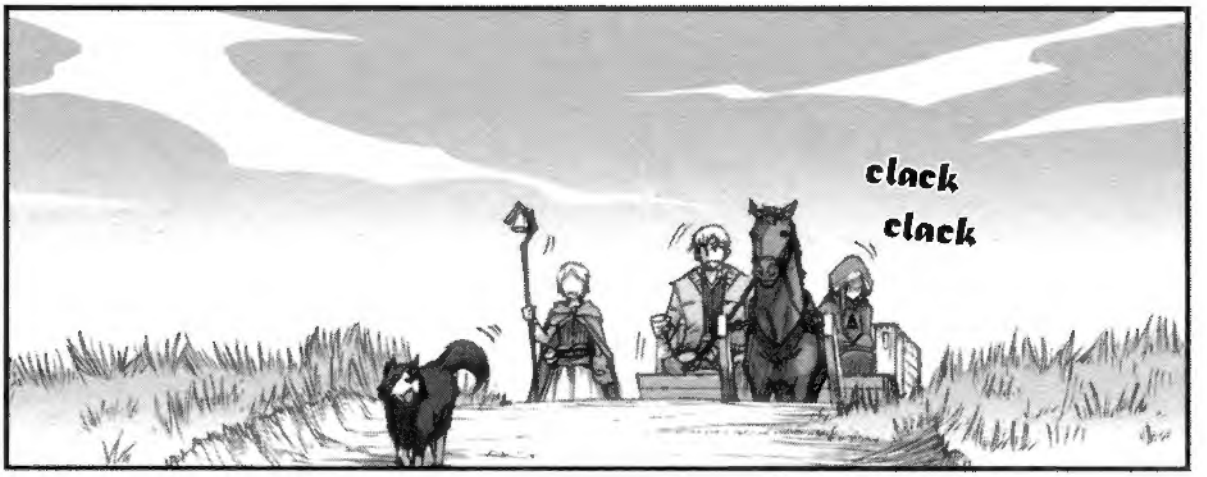
狼と香辛料

baa
baa


clack
clack

HMM, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF A SHEPHERD SELLING A PROTECTION SERVICE.
EH?

!!
!!!

狼と香辛料

WELL...
I JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO TALK TO...
NORMALLY, SHEPHERDS WOULDN'T DO THIS, RIGHT?
.....
I UNDER-STAND.
THERE'S THAT, BUT...
I ALSO WANT TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL TAILOR.

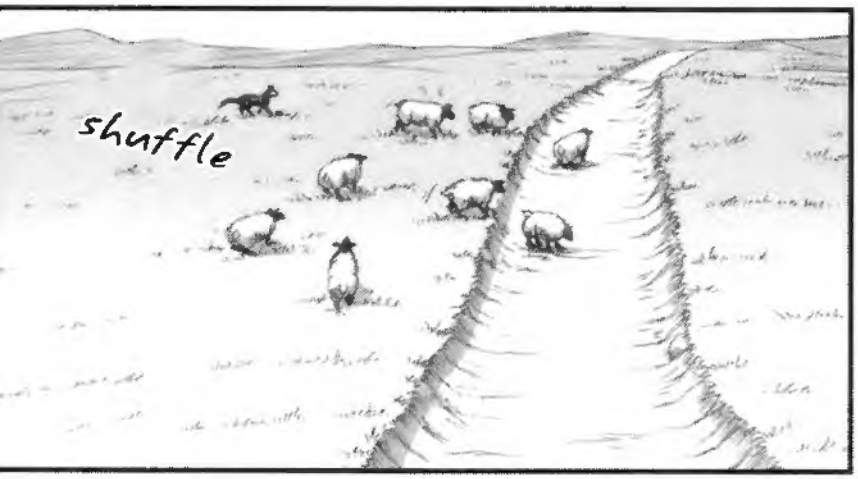
AH, YOU NEED MONEY FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE OF THE TAILORS' UNION.
THESE DAYS, IT'S EXPENSIVE TO REGISTER NO MATTER WHAT TOWN YOU'RE IN.
WELL, MAYBE THAT'S NOT THE CASE WITH NEWER TOWNS, BUT...
OH.
I'VE HEARD THAT IN SOME TOWNS WITH A NEWLY-FORMED UNION, THE REGISTRATION FEE IS WAIVED.
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
WAI... WAIVED.
grip

WE MIGHT BECOME THEIR FUTURE BUSINESS PARTNERS, SO THEY WILL PROBABLY GLADLY TELL US AS MUCH AS THEY KNOW.
WE CAN ASK ANY MERCHANTS WE COME ACROSS FOR ANY NEWS ABOUT PLANS FOR FOUNDING NEW TOWNS.

FEW TOWNS ARE BEING FOUNDED THESE DAYS.
OF COURSE, IT ALL DEPENDS ON THEM HAVING THE INFORMATION IN THE FIRST PLACE...
clack
INSTEAD OF PRAYING TO THE GODDESS OF GOOD FORTUNE, IT'S BETTER TO EARN YOUR LIVING THROUGH HARD WORK.

COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FROM A CERTAIN SOMEONE ...
shuffle shuffle

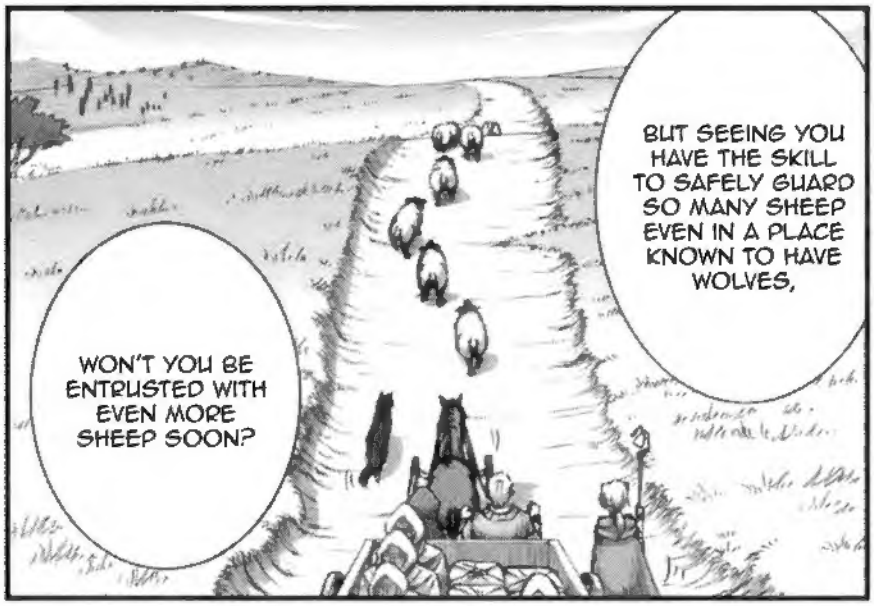
nod
YES.


shuffle

ring ring

clack clack
shuffle shuffle
HMM.
YES.
MOREOVER, IF WE ALWAYS RELY ON GOD, HE'LL GET ANGRY WITH US.
ALL THE SAFE GROUNDS FOR GRAZING SHEEP WERE ALREADY TAKEN BY OTHER SHEPHERDS, SO...
IS THAT THE REASON WHY YOU'RE GRAZING SHEEP IN AN AREA RUMORED TO HAVE WOLVES?
SPEAKING FROM A MERCHANT'S POINT OF VIEW,
IT MIGHT BE MORE PROFITABLE FOR YOU TO SIMPLY TAKE THE ROLE OF A MERCHANT BODYGUARD.
Um...
TURF WARS WITHIN THE BUSINESS WORLD ARE VERY CUTTHROAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...

clack clack
EVEN WOLVES HAVE FOODS THEY PREFER, BUT SOMETIMES THEY WILL GO FOR OUR LIVES...
SO IF POSSIBLE, I'D WANT TO BE IN A SAFE REGION TOO.
WOLVES ARE VERY TROUBLE-SOME CREATURES, AREN'T THEY...
Ouch!?
Pinch
WOLVES ARE CUNNING TOO, SO THEY ARE QUITE DANGEROUS!
?
Pinch
ARGH
IF YOU KEEP TALKING BADLY ABOUT THEM, THEY MIGHT HEAR YOU,
SO DON'T SAY ANY MORE. ♪


BUT SEEING YOU HAVE THE SKILL TO SAFELY GUARD SO MANY SHEEP EVEN IN A PLACE KNOWN TO HAVE WOLVES,
WON'T YOU BE ENTRUSTED WITH EVEN MORE SHEEP SOON?

hahaha
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

I DON'T REALLY WANT MORE SHEEP.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M JUST GRATEFUL TO HAVE A JOB.
clack clack

NO, IT'S REALLY ALL THANKS TO GOD'S PROTECTION...

rolling rolling
HOW ABOUT WE GET YOU A COMPLETE MAKEOVER?
THAT'S PROBABLY JUST YOUR EMPLOYER NOT RECOGNIZING YOUR TALENT.

OH, EXCUSE ME.
AH.
I CAN'T HELP BUT FALL INTO A MERCHANT'S MINDSET OF PROFIT AND LOSS...
EH?
A MAKEOVER? I COULD...
NEVER DO THAT.
heart-beat
NO... NOT AT ALL...
UM...
YES?
rustle rustle
WHEN YOU MENTIONED ... CHANGING EMPLOYERS ...
IS IT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS OFTEN?
clench

I SEE. SHE MIGHT BE OUTSTANDING, BUT I CAN'T SEE MANY EMPLOYERS WILLING TO ENTRUST A YOUNG GIRL WITH THEIR SHEEP.
REALLY...
ISN'T IT REASONABLE TO LOOK FOR A DIFFERENT EMPLOYER IF THE WORKING CONDITIONS ARE NOT TO YOUR LIKING?
SURE.
HOW?
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, IS YOUR EMPLOYER THE CHURCH?
I SEE.
BUT... THAT'S...
HOW DID YOU KNOW!?
THE PRIEST AT MY CHURCH HAS ENTRUSTED ME WITH THESE SHEEP, BUT...
squeeze
THAT'S A MERCHANT'S SECRET.

snuggle
step
step
I UNDERSTAND. IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO CHANGE EMPLOYERS.
.....
YES, CHURCHES EXIST EVEN IN AREAS OF POVERTY,
SO THE WAGES MAY BE SLIGHTLY LOWER, BUT...
YOU THINK SO?
AS LONG AS WE DON'T FORSAKE GOD, THE CHURCH WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR.
SO LONG AS YOU WORK FOR THE CHURCH, YOU DON'T EVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR JOB.

IF ONE LOST THEIR JOB, EVEN AFFORDING MEALS WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
AREN'T YOU GRATEFUL?
A shepherd girl, rarer than a Fairy, is under surveillance from the church.
clatter
clatter
It sounds strange, but it's true.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL, I KNOW A FEW PEOPLE IN RUBIN-HAIGEN,
I'LL ASK THEM IF ANY MERCHANTS REQUIRE PROTECTION FROM WOLVES.
GOD HASN'T FORBIDDEN WORKING PART-TIME JOBS, RIGHT?
cough

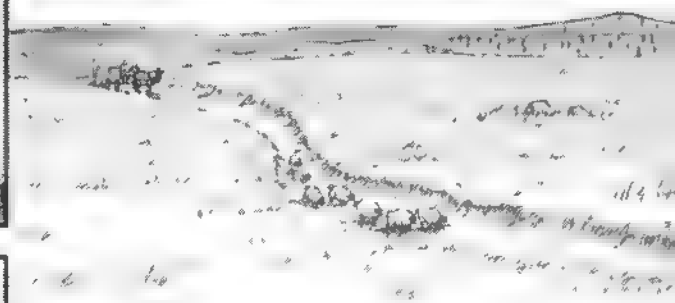
PLEASE DO!
REALLY?
huff
woof
startle
Sorry...
THAT DOG IS DEFI-NITELY MALE.

ANYWAY,
shore

YES!

WE,
TRAVELLERS,

dash
ring
ring



ALL HAVE A
SHARED
DREAM TO
LIVE IN A CITY
ONE DAY,
DON'T WE?

lick
lick

lick
lick
CARING FOR MY TAIL EVERY DAY IS IMPORTANT.
WHAT A DIFFICULT JOB.
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GONE TO SLEEP, SO SHE CAN KEEP WATCH THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.
WHAT? YOU WANT TO ASK ME ABOUT THAT GIRL?
?
clang
twitch
OF COURSE I CAN DO THAT.
tap
WHEN WOLVES COME, YOU NOTICE THEM EVEN IF YOU'RE SLEEPING, RIGHT?
tap
WELL, JUST IN CASE.
YOU'RE SUCH A WORRYWART.

RIGHT, RIGHT. I'M NOT CONVINCED IN THE SLIGHTEST OVER THE SOUND OF YOUR SNORING.
IT'S JUST YOU HUMANS THAT ARE OVERLY DEFENSELESS WHEN YOU SLEEP.
FOR MOST ANIMALS, SLEEPING DOESN'T AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO SENSE ANIMALS AROUND THEM.
stand
I DO NOT SNORE!
!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
hahaha
stretch
clench
I'M TELLING YOU THAT I DON'T SNORE!
...WELL, IT'S NOT THAT LOUD!
I'd say it's more cute than anything!
choke
I'M TELLING YOU I DON'T!
I ALREADY SAID I GOT IT...!
slap
slap

twitch
slip
flap
Stop it!
flap
YOU MEAN NORA?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE REALLY ENJOYING TALKING TO THAT GIRL.
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO CHAT. THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO SAY NO, IS THERE?
ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO A NORMAL GIRL.
snore
snore

?
sigh
sigh

shock
HUH!?
!?
flap
flap
DID YOU...
NOT EVEN NOTICE THAT I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU TALK TO HER?
EH!?

huff
?
clunk
HMM, THAT'S POSSIBLE.
I CAN'T POSSIBLY CALL MYSELF A MERCHANT IF I KEEP FALLING FOR THE SAME TRICK.
BUT IF YOU CONFESSED TO ME SO SUDDENLY, WE'D LOSE THE JOY OF GRADUALLY FALLING IN LOVE.

shine
HOW'S THAT? I HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS, DON'T I?
burst of laughter
OH!
akahahahahaha
Ahahah ahaha
Waaha hahah ahah
haha haah
kick
kick
THAT... THAT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL...

Hahaha hahaa
roll
roll
ahahah hahaha
COUGH
burst
Hahahaah
tremble
Stop
HA
HAA
HA
HAA
Aha ha hah
HAHA-HA
hahaha
fllick
flick
ahaahah
fit of laughter
HAHA
squeal
PHEW

HAA...
HAA...
AH... THAT WAS FUN
pant
HAAA...
Pant

YOU'RE LAUGHING TOO MUCH!
gulp gulp
squeal
ahahaha

ARE YOU DONE YET?

YEAH.
YOU HAVE QUITE THE TRUMP CARD.
WELL, IF YOU FEEL BETTER, THEN IT'S ALL GOOD.
HUH? FEEL BETTER?
WEREN'T YOU FEELING A LITTLE DOWN? BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T TEND TO YOUR TAIL?

flap
flap
THAT'S UNAVOID-ABLE.
WAS THAT IT?
...OH.

giggle
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A LITTLE GIDDY AFTER LAUGHING SO HARD AT WHAT YOU SAID.

IS THE LITTLE GIRL NOT COLD?
flick
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SET UP A FIRE.
thund

HERE, I'LL PAY YOU FOR THAT.
YOU DON'T WANT IT?
.....
I MADE YOU LAUGH THAT MUCH AND ALL I GET IS A STRIP OF JERKY?
lifts
chomp
Aiggh

gustle
sigh

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HOW ABOUT YOU LET ME HAVE A LIVE SHEEP ONCE IN A WHILE?
baa
baa
giggle
Hahaha
flick
OUCH
baaa

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Spice and Wolf 22

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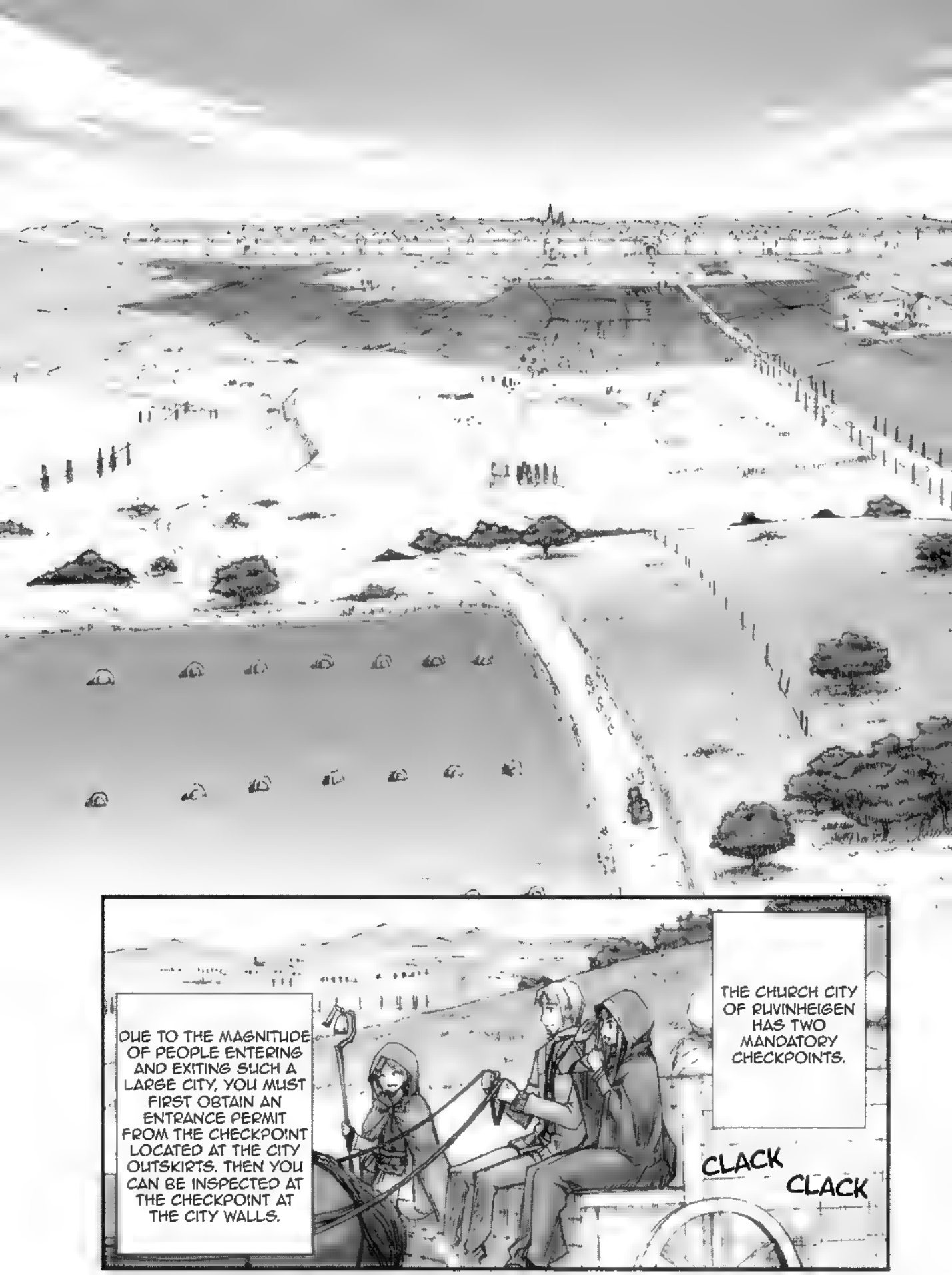
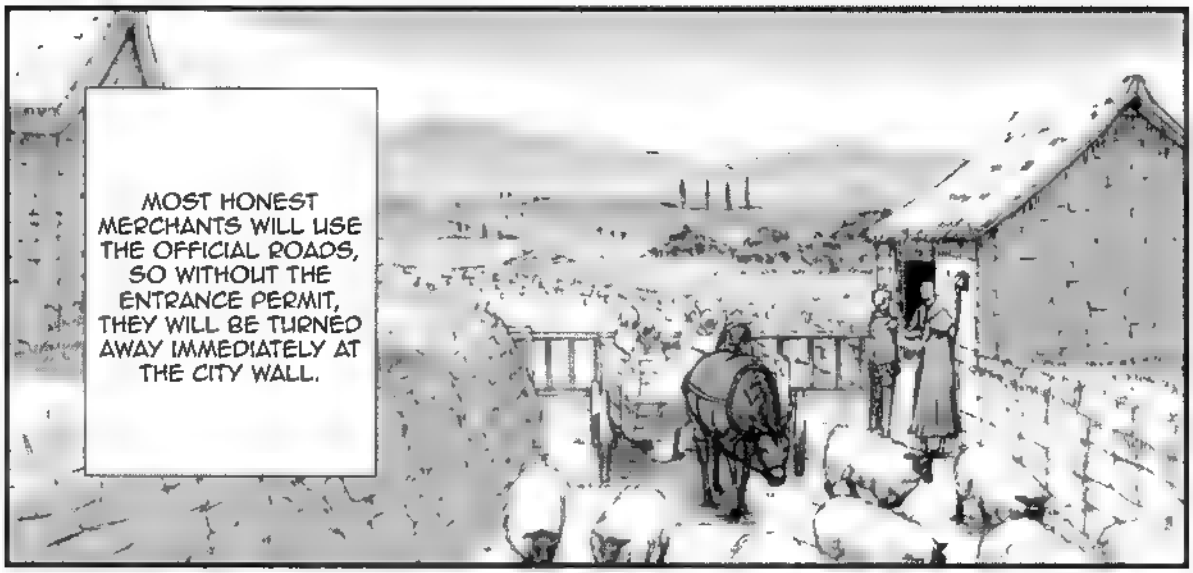
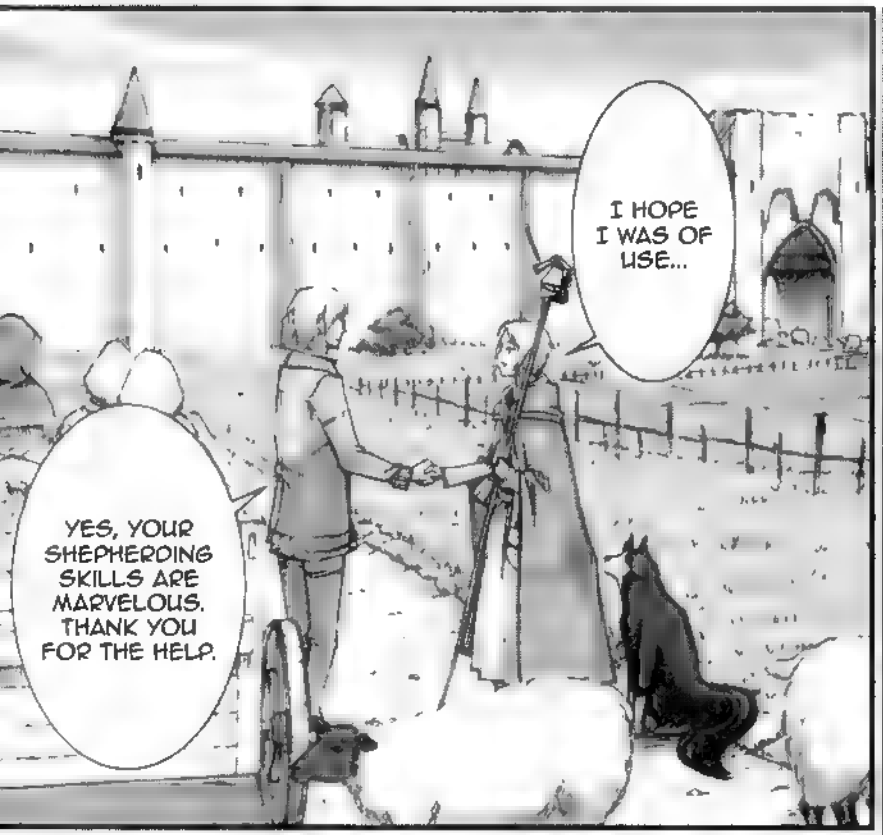
狼と香辛料

OOH...
CLACK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLACK


THE CHURCH CITY OF RUVINHEIGEN HAS TWO MANDATORY CHECKPOINTS.
CLACK
CLACK
DUE TO THE MAGNITUDE OF PEOPLE ENTERING AND EXITING SUCH A LARGE CITY, YOU MUST FIRST OBTAIN AN ENTRANCE PERMIT FROM THE CHECKPOINT LOCATED AT THE CITY OUTSKIRTS. THEN YOU CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CHECKPOINT AT THE CITY WALLS.


MOST HONEST MERCHANTS WILL USE THE OFFICIAL ROADS, SO WITHOUT THE ENTRANCE PERMIT, THEY WILL BE TURNED AWAY IMMEDIATELY AT THE CITY WALL.

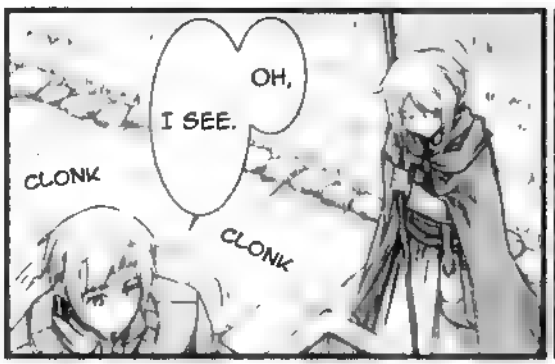
OF COURSE, LIKE FOR ANY BIG CITY, THIS HELPS PREVENT THE INFLUX OF SMUGGLED GOODS AND COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY INTO THE CITY.


I HOPE I WAS OF USE...
YES, YOUR SHEPHERDING SKILLS ARE MARVELOUS. THANK YOU FOR THE HELP.

IF YOU ARE ENTERING FROM THE SOUTHERN GATE, WE HAVE TO PART WAYS HERE.

IT'S AN INVEST-MENT.
UM... IF I EXCHANGE THIS FOR TRIE, IT WILL BE MORE THAN 40.
HERE ARE THE 40 TRIE I PROMISED YOU.
KACHING
IF I GET TO KNOW A SKILLED SHEPHERD, I COULD MAKE UNHEARD-OF PROFITS SELLING WOOL.
grin
INVEST... MENT?
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
giggle

IF YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO GO GRAZING AGAIN, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL.
WE'LL BE STAYING AT THE ROWEN TRADING GUILD FOR THE TIME BEING.
step


OH,
I SEE.
CLONK
CLONK

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A MERCHANT WHO REQUIRES PROTECTION.

CLUNK
IT MIGHT BE IMPOLITE, BUT MERCHANTS CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL.

!

I HAVE A FEW THINGS LEFT OVER. IF YOU'D LIKE, PLEASE TAKE THEM.
blush

IT'S AN INVEST-MENT.

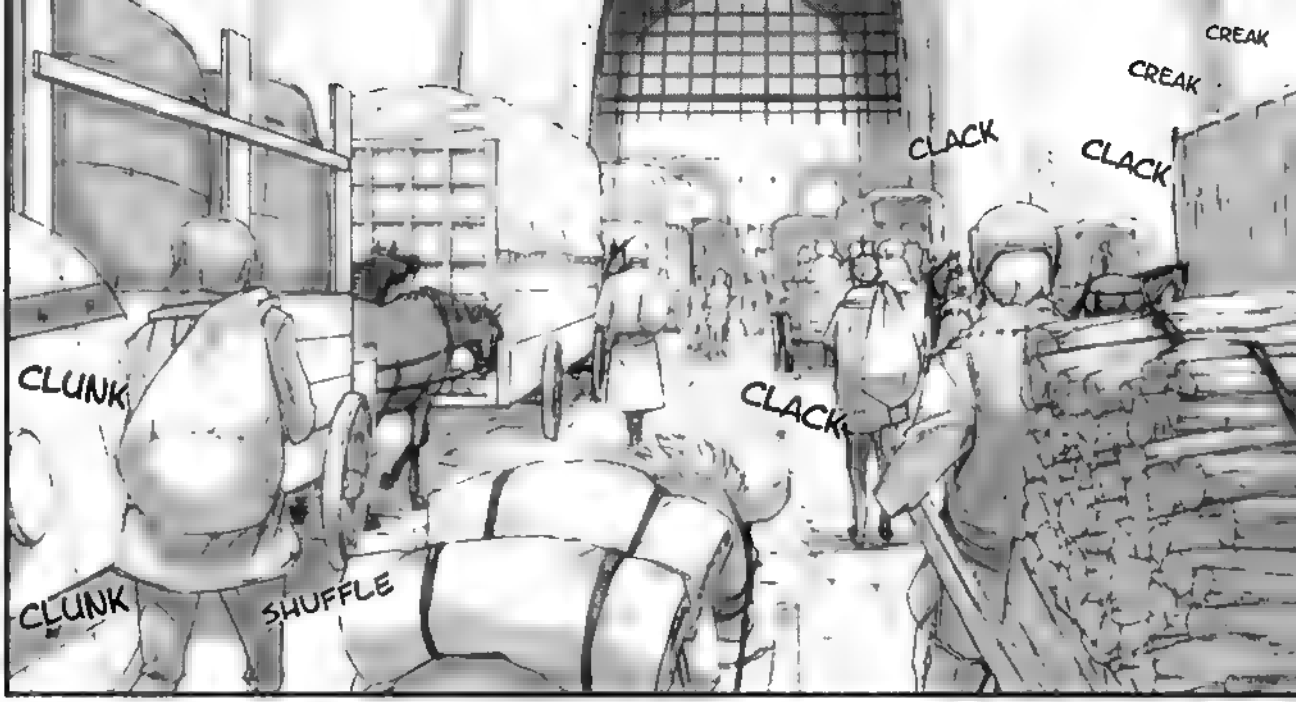
UM,
LET ME BUY THEM PLEASE.

NO, I COULDN'T DO THAT.
FIDGET
FIDGET

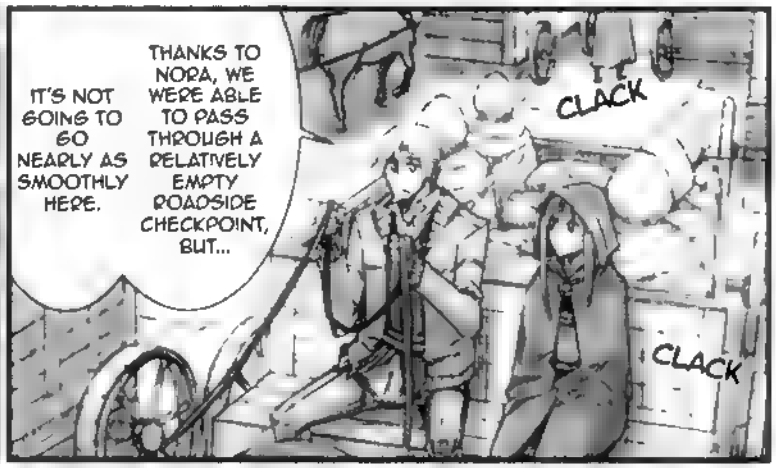
I SEE. THEN, HOW DOES 5 TRIE SOUND?

YES!

FOR WHICH AREAS CAN YOU PROVIDE YOUR SERVICES? IS IT JUST THE AREAS AROUND THE ROUTE WE TOOK?
AH, I SHOULD ASK YOU THIS IN ADVANCE.
UM... I CAN GO AS FAR AS KASLATA OR POROSON.
AH, I CAN ALSO HEAD AS FAR AS LAMTRA.
YOU MEAN THAT "FREE" CITY LAMTRA?
THE CITY YOU CAN REACH BY USING A SHORTCUT THROUGH THE FOREST, RIGHT?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A CUSTOMER.
excited
PLEASE DO.


CREAK
CREAK
CLACK
CLACK
CLUNK
CLACK
CLUNK
SHUFFLE

AT LEAST WE CAN SKIP PART OF THIS LINE THANKS TO THAT.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

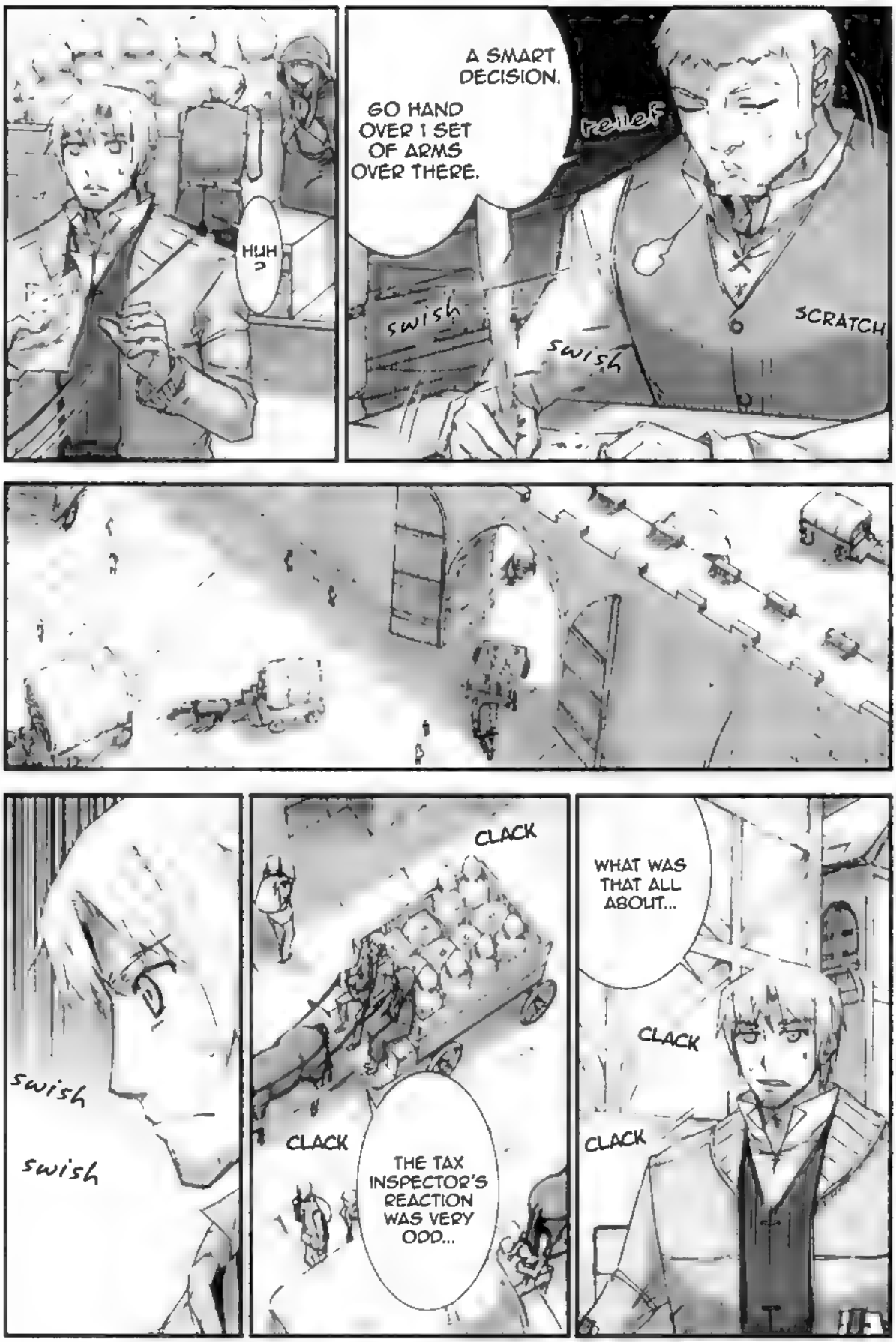

IT'S NOT GOING TO GO NEARLY AS SMOOTHLY HERE.
THANKS TO NORA, WE WERE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH A RELATIVELY EMPTY ROADSIDE CHECKPOINT, BUT...
CLACK
CLACK

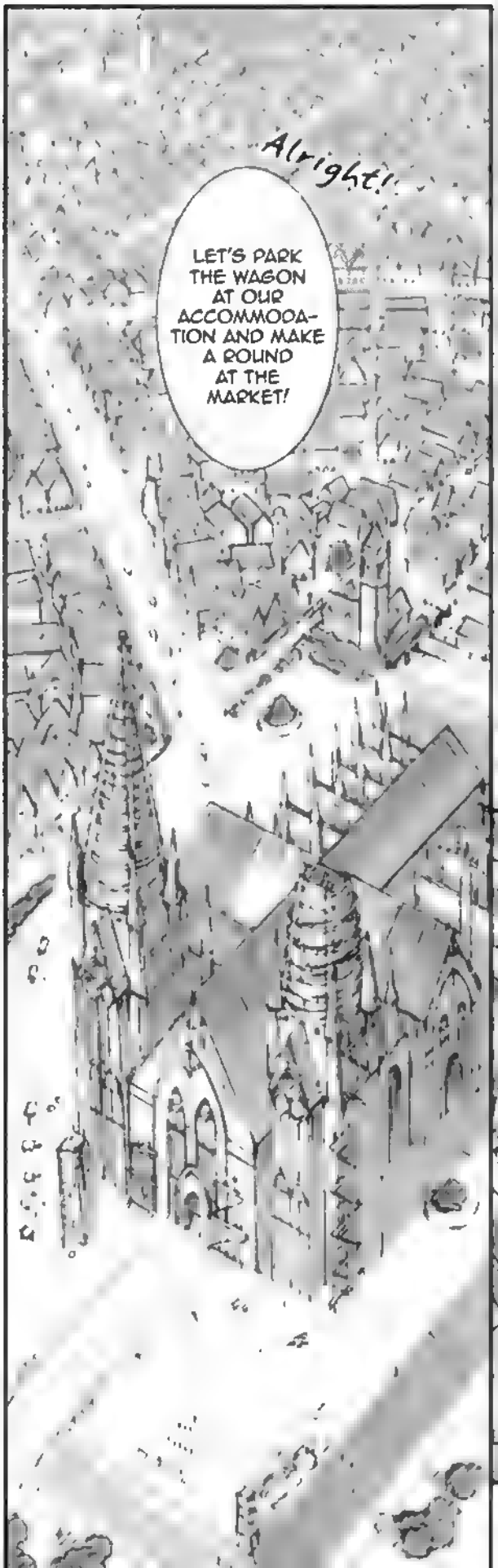
I SUP-POSE SO.
BY THE WAY, THOSE TWO SILVER COINS YOU GAVE THAT GIRL WOULD CONVERT INTO 45 TORIE SILVER COINS, YOU KNOW?
I SEE.
SHAKE
SHAKE

INSIDE THE INSPECTION GATE IS A LARGE PLAZA. WE'LL BE INSPECTED THERE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF UNOBSERVANT FIRST-TIMERS THAT FORM A LINE OUTSIDE THE GATES FOR NO REASON.

glance
I WONDER IF SHE'S GOING THROUGH HARDSHIPS...
CLACK
CLACK
SHE DEFINITELY LOOKED MATURE BEYOND HER YEARS.
hahaha...
WHAT, DID YOU THINK I WAS THAT ILL-NATURED?
I WONDER WHAT HONEY-SOAKED PEARS ARE REALLY LIKE. I'M DEFINITELY LOOKING FORWARD TO THEM.
HMM...
UGH... YOU RE-MEMBERED THAT?

chatter
shake
shake
chatter
chatter
I'M CARRYING 10 SETS OF ARMS.
HMM, WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING FROM POROSON?
Stand up
Y-YES. WE PURCHASED THEM FROM THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
ARMS? FROM POROSON?
I'D LIKE TO BARTER.
CERTAINLY... ARE YOU PAYING THE TARIFF WITH CASH OR BARTER?

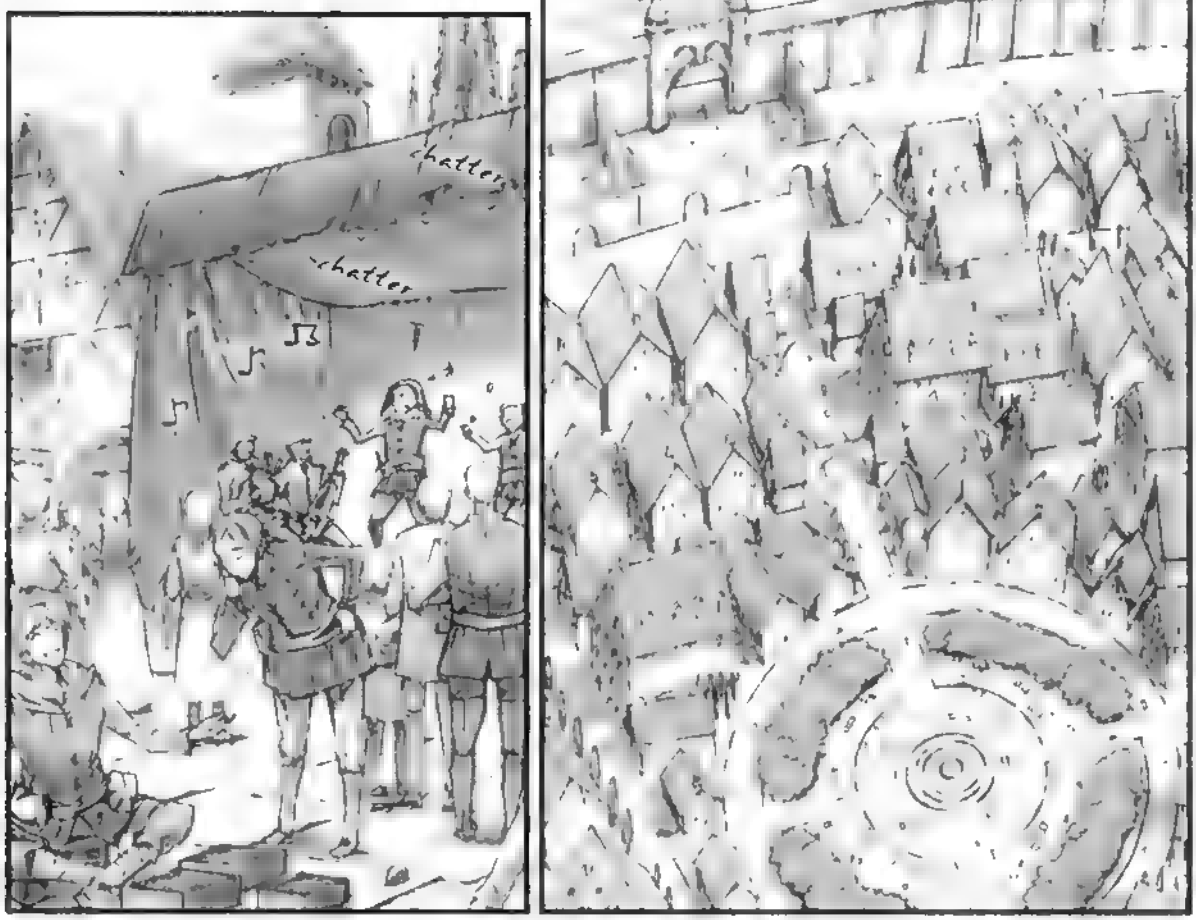

HUH?
A SMART DECISION.
GO HAND OVER 1 SET OF ARMS OVER THERE.
relief
swish
swish
SCRATCH
swish
swish
CLACK
CLACK
THE TAX INSPECTOR'S REACTION WAS VERY ODD...
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...
CLACK
CLACK


Alright!
LET'S PARK THE WAGON AT OUR ACCOMMODATION AND MAKE A ROUND AT THE MARKET!

HEY.
whisper
EH?

WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'M...
WHAT IS IT?

sigh...
I'M STARVING.


chatter
chatter

THANKS FOR YOUR BUSI-NESS!

splash

I FOUND US SOME EEL, HORO! CLEAR THE TABLE FOR ME.
SIZZLE

kufufu
DOES IT SUIT ME?
chatter
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU LOOK LIKE A GIRL WHO'S SKIPPING WORK AND HAVING FUN IN THE TOWN.
exhale
DEEP-FRIED LAMPREYS GO BEST WITH BEER.
Wow!
When you ask me that, do you mean the clothes or your moustache?
YUP, DELICIOUS!!

Gulp
!
chomp
chomp
nom
nom
ahhhh
You sure look like you're enjoying yourself.
AHHHHHHHH
YUP, I REMEMBER RUVINHEIGEN NOW.
WHAT'S THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NOT THE NAME OF THIS TOWN, BUT THE NAME OF A PERSON.
Hahaha
MASTER, ONE MORE CUP!
SIR, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE CAUGHT YOURSELF AN EXPENSIVE WOMAN.

HAHAHA, NO WAY
.....
I REMEMBER SNARLING AT HIM.
HE LIVED A LONG TIME AGO.
RIGHT NOW, IT'S DEFINITELY THE NAME OF A TOWN, BUT IT WAS ORIGINALLY THE NAME OF THE CRUSADER WHO LED THE HOLY KNIGHTS IN PERSECUTING HERETICS. IT'S THE NAME OF A SAINT
AH, I GUESS YOU'RE CORRECT.

AND HE CHARGED TOWARDS ME WITH HIS KNIGHTS, WITH SWORD AND SPEAR IN HAND
AFTER SEEING MY CUTE EARS AND TAIL, HE IMMEDIATELY CALLED ME A DEMON.
HE WAS A MAN WITH FLOWING RED HAIR THAT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS BURNING HIS FACE HAD AN AUSTERE LOOK TO IT

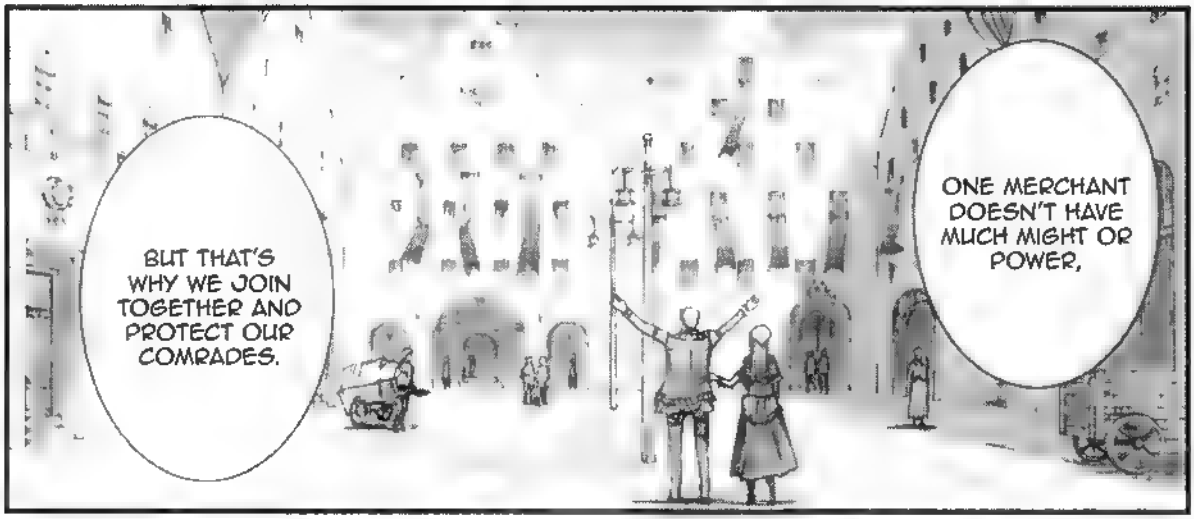
I HAD HAD ENOUGH AT THAT POINT, SO I RETURNED TO MY ORIGINAL FORM AND SENT THEM FLYING.
FINALLY, I LEFT MY MARK ON RUVINHEIGEN'S ASS.
IT WAS SINEWY, AND QUITE NASTY

rub
rub
I HEARD SAINT RUVINHEIGEN FOUGHT WITH THE DEITIES OF OTHER RELIGIONS TO BUILD THIS STRONGHOLD, BUT...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE ONE OF THEM...

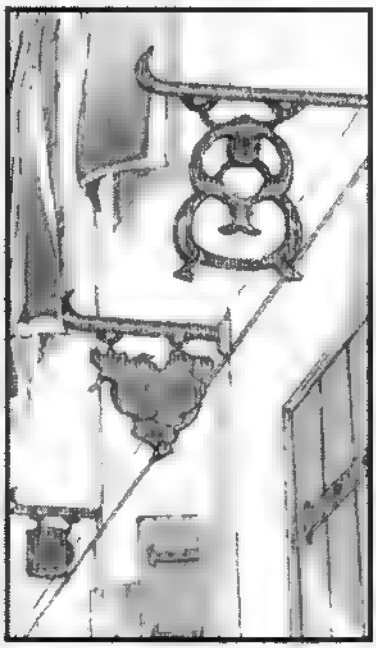
I ONLY BIT HIS ASS, YOU KNOW?
I DIDN'T KILL HIM.
AH.
BUT LISTEN TO ME.

I GET IT.
WHAT A STRANGE THING TO WORRY ABOUT.
IT'S IMPORTANT.

THE TRADING GUILD, BUT...
TRADING COMPANY?
rub
rub
SO, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
SHEESH, STOP HITTING ME!
REMEMBER IT ALREADY.
A TRADING GUILD IS A BASE THAT'S SET UP BY MERCHANTS WHO WORK IN THE SAME FIELD AND ARE FROM THE SAME TOWN.
cough


ONE MERCHANT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH MIGHT OR POWER,
BUT THAT'S WHY WE JOIN TOGETHER AND PROTECT OUR COMRADES.

A LONG TIME AGO, 18 AREAS AND 23 DIFFERENT FIELDS OF WORK JOINED TOGETHER TO FORM THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ECONOMIC UNION,
AND THEY ENDED UP GOING AGAINST A NATION. I HEARD THEY WON IN AN INSTANT.

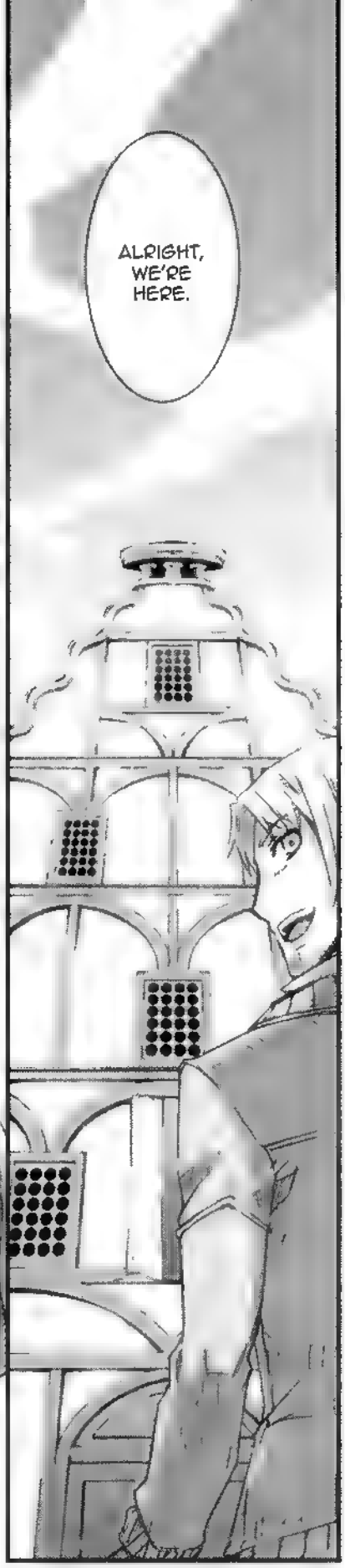


BECAUSE OF THAT, WHENEVER WE ENGAGE IN A LARGE TRADE,
WE CAN LEVERAGE AN AUTHENTICITY CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE GUILD.
IT MEANS THAT THE GUILD IS SANCTIONING OUR TRADE.
We can proceed without being looked down on.
HMMM.

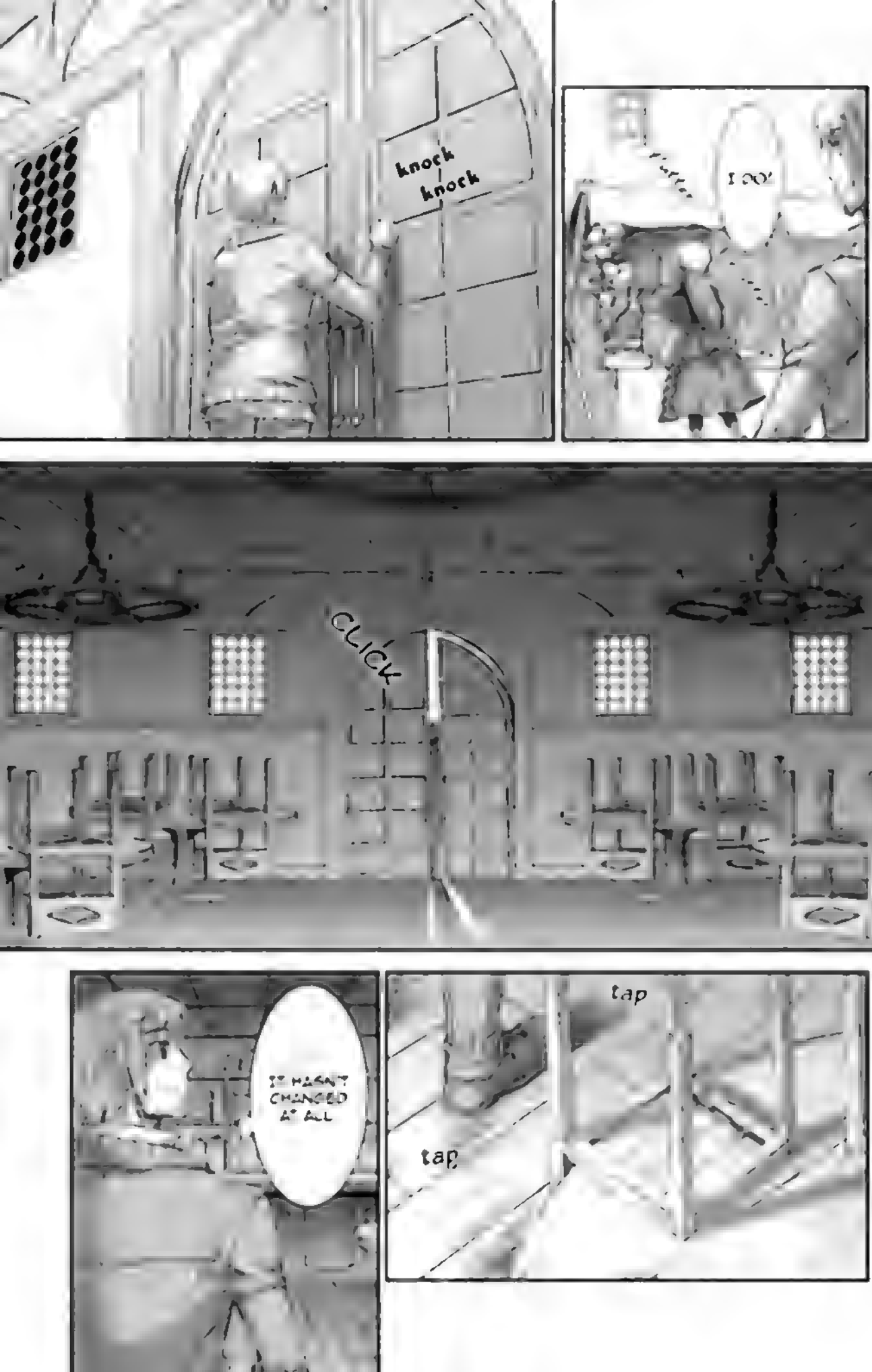
.....
I'D RATHER KEEP DRINKING IN THE PLAZA.
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING ME THERE WITH YOU?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE BUSINESS AT THE TRADING GUILD, BUT HEY!
IT'D BE DANGEROUS IF I LEFT YOU ALL ALONE.
Hmmm...
NO MATTER HOW CUTE YOU ARE, YOU'RE NOT GETTING PAST THE CRUSADERS OR THE CHURCH GUARDS.
Once you're drunk, there's a big risk you'll expose your ears or tail.
grab
YUP, IT'S BECAUSE I'M SO CUTE.
IT'D BE DANGEROUS FOR ME TO BE ALONE.
fidget
fidget

CLACK
CLACK

yeah
MOST OF THE HOUSES FROM MY HOMETOWN ARE LIKE THIS.
THAT'S A STRANGE BUILDING.


ALRIGHT, WE'RE HERE.

WELL THEN, I'M GOING TO COMPLETE MY BUSINESS.
SO IT'S A BIT LIKE A SECOND HOME FOR YOU MERCHANTS...
OH WHAT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHOW ME OFF TO YOUR FELLOW MERCHANTS?
grin
I'LL BE BACK SOON, SO WAIT FOR ME HERE.
I'LL BE DONE SOON. GO GET SOME SWEET BREAD FROM THAT STAND.
FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, WE'D HAVE TO GET MARRIED FIRST.
shake
shake
WEDDING CELEBRATIONS IN MY HOMETOWN CAN GET RATHER ROWDY... STILL WANT TO COME IN?
pissed
DO YOU THINK I'M A KID?
THEN YOU DON'T WANT IT?

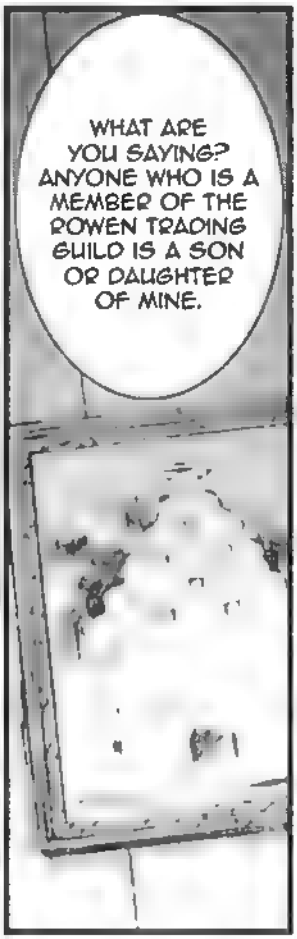

knock
knock
I DO!
CLICK
IT HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL
tap
tap

HEY-
WELL, WELL, AREN'T YOU A POOR MERCHANT.
TO BE LOITERING ABOUT THE TRADE GUILD AT SUCH A TIME PROBABLY MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF EARNING AN HONEST LIVING.
cough
WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE INTO A ROBBER OUTFIT AND TRY YOUR LUCK AT A BAR?
SPENDING THE WHOLE DAY LURKING AROUND THE MARKETS IS PROOF OF BEING A THIRD-RATE MERCHANT
tap
A GREAT MERCHANT IS ONE WHO EARNS THEIR LIVING WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SPECK OF DUST ON THEIR SHOES
THE ONLY DIRT ON ME ARE THE STAINS FROM THE BLACK INK ON MY FINGERS.
tap
tap

BANG
AM I WRONG?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER WITH WORDS.
Ka ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha ha

MOREOVER, I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU. I'D EVEN KNOW IF YOU WET THE BED WHILE CAMPING OUT.
Kahaha
squeeze
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU DONE? DID YOU STEAL MONEY FROM A STORE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND HIRE PROSTITUTES...
EVEN GOD TEACHES THAT WE, FATHERS, NEED TO LOOK AFTER OUR SONS.


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ANYONE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE ROWEN TRADING GUILD IS A SON OR DAUGHTER OF MINE.

WELCOME BACK, MY SON!
STOP CALLING ME YOUR SON, PLEASE.

hahaha
cough cough
I AM CRAFT LAWRENCE, SON OF THE GREAT JAKOB TARANTINO.
OKAY, OKAY!!
I GUESS I WOULD NEVER GET FORCED TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT ANYWHERE BUT AT HOME.
exhale

WELCOME BACK. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR ABOUT A YEAR.
ARE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS IN OTHER TOWNS DOING WELL?
THANKS TO THE SAINT, EVERYONE IS DOING FINE.

I SEE, I SEE. FOR YOU TO GO AROUND VISITING YOUR FAMILY MUST MEAN...
YOU'VE AMASSED QUITE THE FORTUNE.
IF YOU CARRY AROUND TOO MUCH, YOUR WALLET WILL GROW TOO HEAVY AND YOUR PANTS WILL DROOP. IF YOUR PANTS DROOP, THE LADIES WILL HATE YOU. SO NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO SHOW OFF.
AM I RIGHT?
BANG

JINGLE

IF IT'S THIS MUCH, EVEN THE GREAT JAKOB CAN TELL HOW MUCH I HAVE WITH JUST A GLANCE.
I HEARD THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN OLD, AND YOU CAN'T COUNT SMALL AMOUNTS ANYMORE, BUT...

I WISH YOU'D HURRY AND BECOME A MERCHANT WHOSE VERY NAME INSPIRES AWE.
I WISH FOR THAT TOO.

YOU NEED A CERTIFICATE?
SO, SEEING AS YOU'RE COMING TO ME AT THIS HOUR, YOU MUST BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEAL.
YES.

Squirt was unnecessary.
OH, SO EVEN A LITTLE SQUIRT LIKE YOU CAN SHOW ME THE MONEY NOW! I'M SO HAPPY.
hahaha

YOU'RE ASKING ME SOMETHING STRANGE AGAIN.
OH RIGHT, IS THERE ANYONE IN THE GUILD WHO WANTS TO HEAD TO LAMTRA?
OH, IS THAT IT?
NO, I JUST THOUGHT OF STARTING A BUSINESS THAT COULD TAKE PEOPLE ALONG THE SHORTCUT TO LAMTRA.
shock
IT'S THAT SHEPHERD GIRL, RIGHT?

THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD THE SAME IDEA YOU DID. AT THE BEGINNING THEY WERE ABLE TO SET UP ROUTES ALONG THE AREAS THAT THE SHEPHERD GIRL WANDERED.
BUT NONE OF THEM ARE AROUND ANYMORE. NO ONE NEEDS HER SERVICES.
twip
twip
sigh
...WAS IT THE CHURCH?
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
scratch
scratch
THE FAIRY NORA SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF GIRL YOU'D LIKE, BUT...
IT SEEMS THAT SHE IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH.
GIVE IT UP.
SO, WHO DO YOU WANT THE CERTIFICATE ADDRESSED TO? OR DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE IT BLANK?

REMELIO, HUH? SINCE YOU ALREADY HAVE A BUYER, ARE YOU MARGIN BUYING?
fwip
NO, COULD YOU ADDRESS IT TO THE REMELIO TRADING GUILD, PLEASE?
YES. MY BROKER IS THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD IN POROSON.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?

WELL THEN, THE ROWEN TRADING GUILD IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF SAINT LAMBARDOS.
I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK.
YES.
drop
drip
WELL, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU GET THERE.
twirl
HERE'S YOUR CERTIFICATE.
grin

THANKS
glance

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Spice and Wolf 23

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狼と香辛料

ONE MORE THING...

!
THAT WEAK FAIRY GIRL IS OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE.
WORRY ABOUT THE GIRL LATER,

WELL THEN.
IF THERE WASN'T A CHANCE OF SUCCESS, I WOULDN'T HAVE INVESTED.
How in the does he know?!
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE A CITY GIRL. IF SHE BECOMES YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER, YOU COULD REAP PROFITS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

CLICK
That guy kept on running his mouth.
Ahaha
I KEEP LETTING HIM MAKE FUN OF ME.

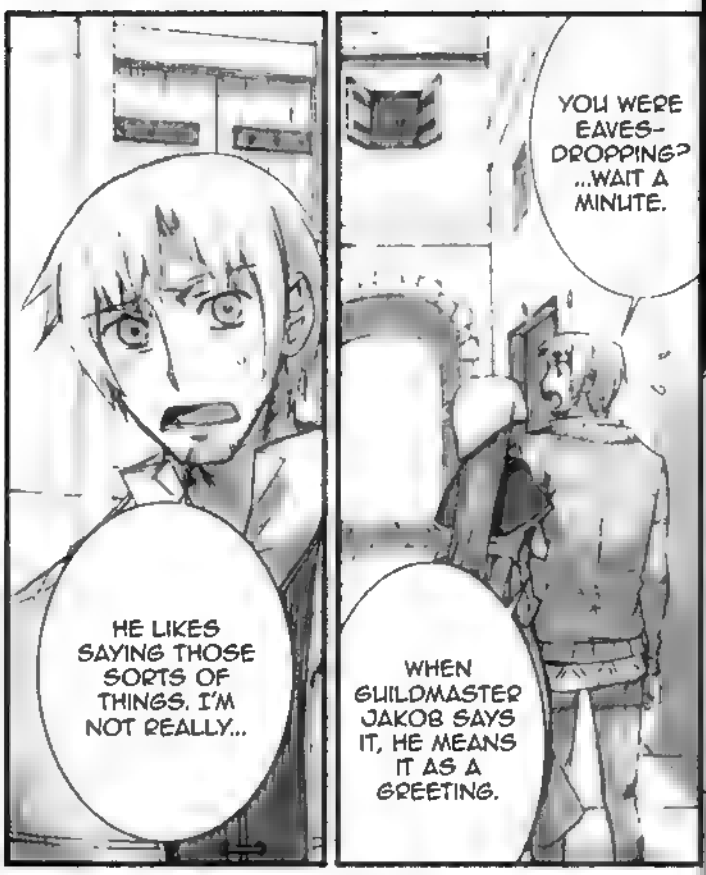
THAT'S MY COMPANION.

swallow

WHAT ROWDY FOLK, EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...
phew
FROM THE CONDITION OF YOUR HANDS, YOU'VE BEEN IN TRAINING FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS?
flinch
!
AREN'T YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME ERRANDS?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
brush
brush
giggle
UFU, SO CUTE.
THEY CALLED ME THINGS LIKE "BEAUTIFUL ROSE."

THESE BRATS IN TRAINING ARE JUST LIKE STARVING WOLVES.
DON'T ENTERTAIN THEIR ATTEMPTS.
YOU'LL BE KIDNAPPED.
grin
IF THEY DO, YOU'LL COME SAVE ME.
RIGHT?

She got me...
grab
RIGHT, I'LL COME SAVE YOU.
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY GETS SAVED IN THE END ANYWAY.
SO, YOU PREFER BLONDES?
EH?


HE LIKES SAYING THOSE SORTS OF THINGS. I'M NOT REALLY...
WHEN GUILDMASTER JAKOB SAYS IT, HE MEANS IT AS A GREETING.
YOU WERE EAVES-DROPPING? ...WAIT A MINUTE.

THAT LOOK OF MISFORTUNE ON YOUR FACE.
grin
AM I SO MUCH TROUBLE TO HANDLE?
OR DO YOU PREFER THE SHEPHERD GIRL THAT MUCH?
grip

NOT REALLY?
tug

stare

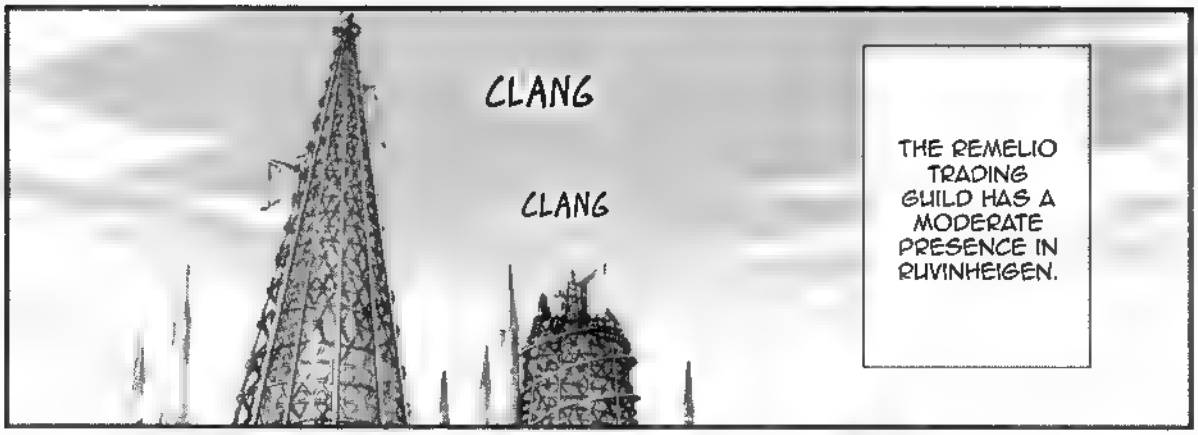
WHEN WE TALKED, IT WAS DEFINITELY ENJOYABLE.
WELL, I THINK NORA HAS HER GOOD POINTS.

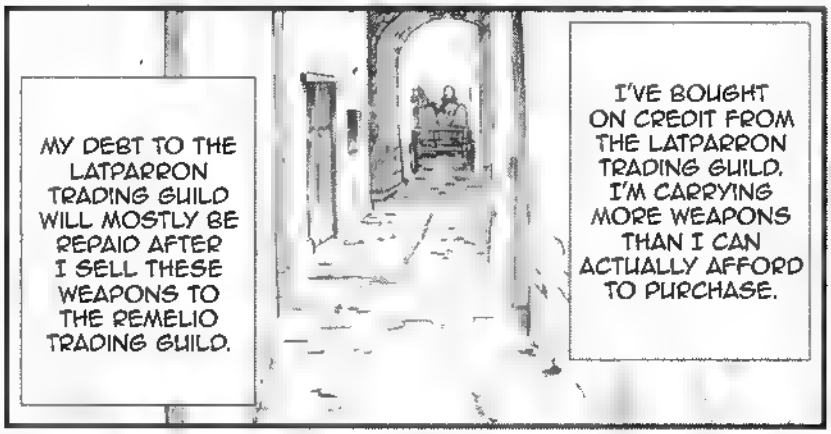
clears throat
.....

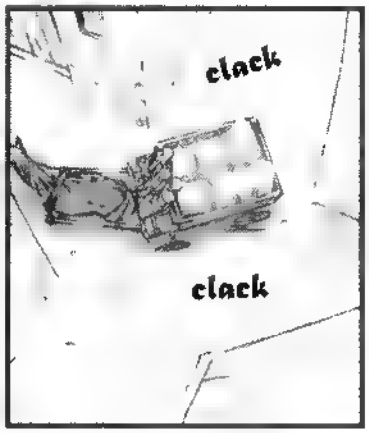
OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
HOWEVER, I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE BORING,

sigh

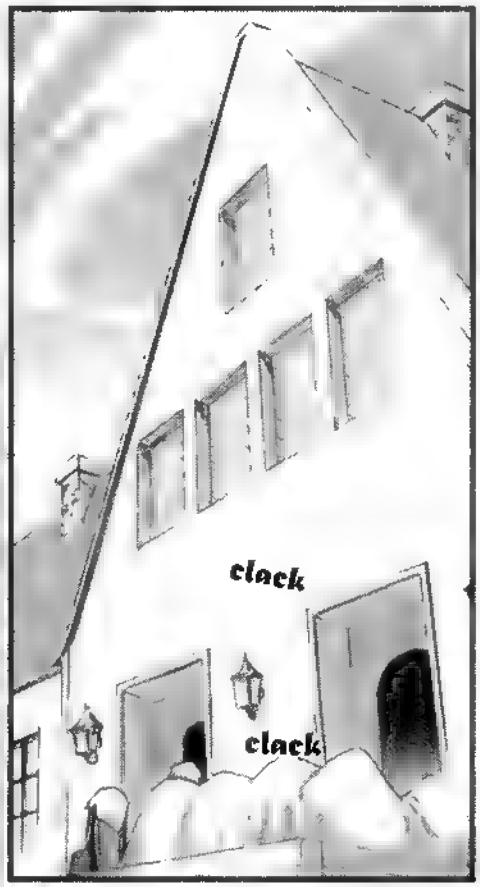
grin
blush
WHAT?
HOLD ON.
YOU'RE JUST TEASING ME... AREN'T YOU...
ONCE WE GET TO THE PLACE WE'RE STAYING AT, LET'S HURRY AND SELL OFF THOSE WEAPONS.
OKAY.
Okay, okay! Then we can go get some honey-soaked peaches!
Only if they're on sale.


CLANG
CLANG
THE REMELIO TRADING GUILD HAS A MODERATE PRESENCE IN RUVINHEIGEN.


MY DEBT TO THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD WILL MOSTLY BE REPAID AFTER I SELL THESE WEAPONS TO THE REMELIO TRADING GUILD.
I'VE BOUGHT ON CREDIT FROM THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD. I'M CARRYING MORE WEAPONS THAN I CAN ACTUALLY AFFORD TO PURCHASE.


clack
clack

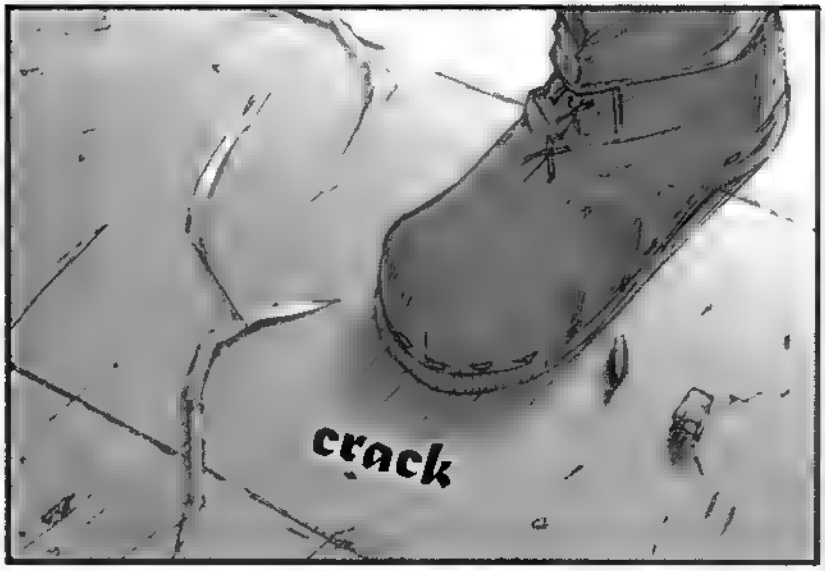
THIS IS IT.
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO POROSON.
WHAT'S LEFT IS A MERCHANT'S WISDOM TO BALANCE THE BOOKS IN HIS FAVOR.

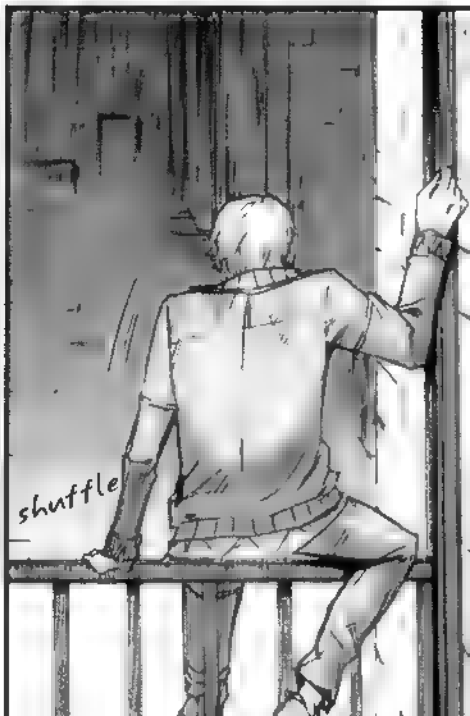

clack
clack

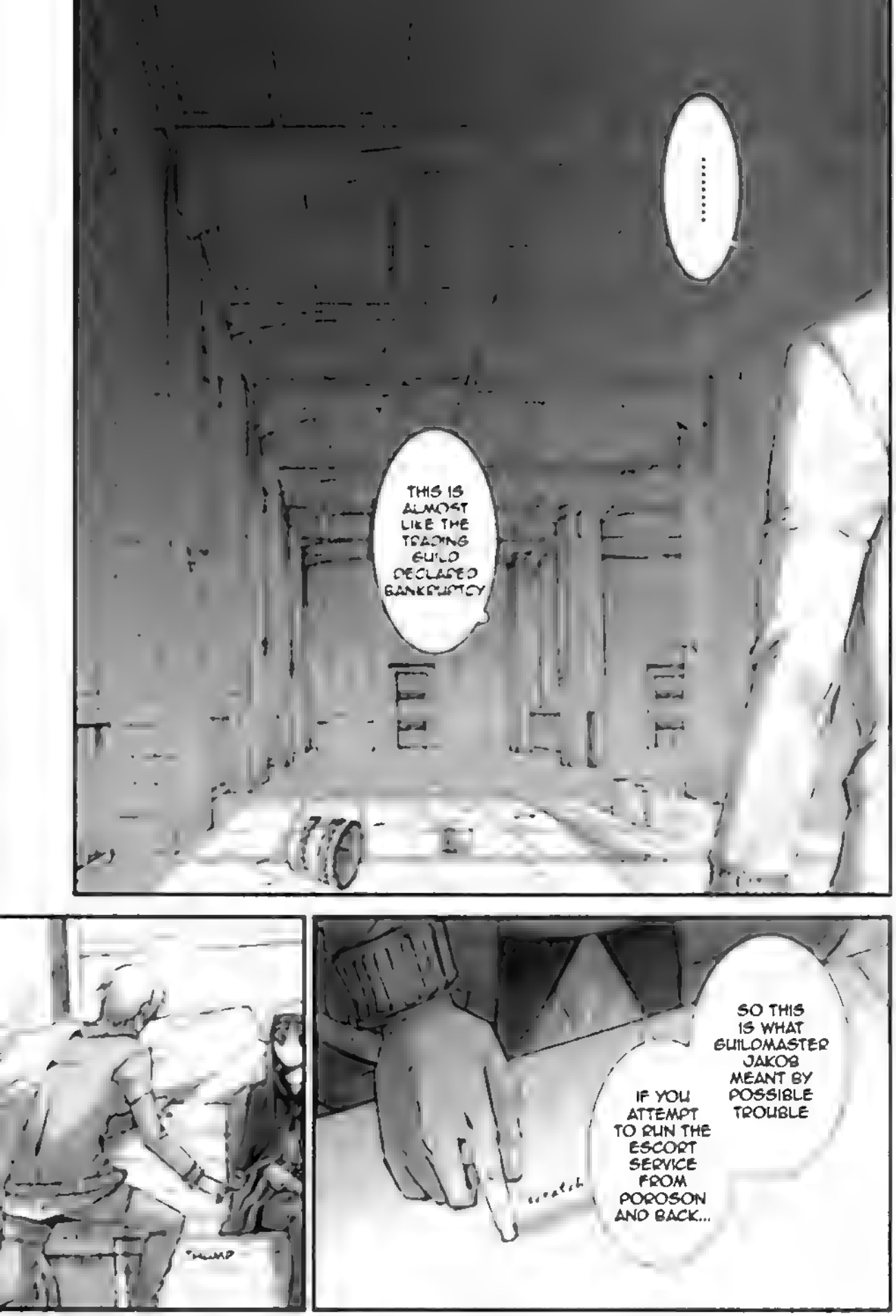
Silence

Maybe they're out for lunch.
IF IT WERE RUN BY THE CLERGY, WE'D HAVE HEARD SOME COMPLAINTS IN THEIR PRAYERS...

munch
THIS TRADING GUILD IS BEING RUN BY THE CLERGY?


crack


shuffle


.....
THIS IS ALMOST LIKE THE TRADING GUILD DECLARED BANKRUPTCY
THUMP
SO THIS IS WHAT GUILDMASTER JAKOB MEANT BY POSSIBLE TROUBLE
IF YOU ATTEMPT TO RUN THE ESCORT SERVICE FROM POROSON AND BACK...

WELL, THIS IS CERTAINLY TROUBLING...
THERE SEEM TO BE A FEW PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING, BUT...
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE HERE?
twitch
IT'S A VERY UNCERTAIN ATMOSPHERE, BUT THEY ARE CERTAINLY NOT HAPPY.
.....
I SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD SOMEWHERE ELSE...

WELCOME... TO THE REMELIO TRADING GUILD.
SLAM
AH!
!?
WOW...
shuffle
shuffle
WELL, JUST A LITTLE...
THERE'S STILL A LITTLE TIME BEFORE THE SABBATH, BUT CAN I HELP YOU?

neighing
THIS IS A GREAT STEED. DID YOU ARRIVE HERE TODAY?
...NO, I ARRIVED A FEW DAYS AGO, BUT A NUMBER OF THINGS HAPPENED.
.....
WELL, IF YOU ARE IN A RUSH, I CAN COME AGAIN. I AM NOT IN A HURRY TO CONDUCT MY BUSINESS.
freeze
NO, NO, I'M JUST A MERCHANT WHO IS COMPLETELY INCOMPETENT AT SELLING GOODS.
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY LET YOU LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED. THAT WOULD BE SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.
NO, NO, PLEASE WAIT. YOU REMIND ME OF A FAMOUS PERSON.
tug

hehe
SIR, THERE'S NO NEED TO SELL YOURSELF SO SHORT.
FROM YOUR APPEARANCE ALONE, EVEN A BLIND BEGGAR COULD TELL THAT YOU ARE NO ORDINARY MAN.
EVEN IF YOU FLATTER ME, YOU WON'T GET ANYTHING.
WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME.
Ah.
surprise
neigh
I SEE...
WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD THEN. I WILL AWAIT YOUR NEXT VISIT.

IT'S CRAFT LAWRENCE FROM THE ROWEN TRADING GUILD...
BY THE WAY, YOU TOLD ME YOUR NAME, BUT I FORGOT.
I NEED TO SELL MY GOODS TO ANOTHER PARTY AND ORGANIZE THE REPAYMENT TO THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD.
NO, IF HE ONLY KNOWS MY NAME, I SHOULD STILL BE ALRIGHT. HE DOESN'T KNOW OF MY CIRCUMSTANCES.

AH! SO YOU WERE LAWRENCE, HUH?
FROM THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD.

LAST NIGHT, VIA EXPRESS COURIER FROM POROSON,

IMPOSSIBLE

SO YOU WERE THE ONE PLANNING ON BRINGING IN WEAPONS FROM THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD?

!?

WE WERE HANDED ALL OF THE LOANS FROM LATPARRON.

IMPOSSIBLE

!?

!?

THIS CAN'T BE.

IMPOSSIBLE...

NO WAY.

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE THE ONES HOLDING YOUR LOAN.

waver
WHAT IS GOING ON?

THE SAME AS US.

YOUR PARTNER JUST HAD A BUSINESS FAILURE.

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?

THERE WAS A MASSIVE CRASH IN THE WEAPONS MARKET A WHILE AGO.
YOU WERE GIVEN DEAD STOCK BY THOSE FOXES AT THE LATPARRON TRADING GUILD.
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
I'VE BEEN HAD...

第V巻に続く…

「狼と香辛料コミック版」第四巻です。

おかげさまで2年半頑張ってこられました。また２００９年にはホロ役の声優である小清水亜美さんとの対談、台湾でのサイン会など稀有な経験をさせていただいております。とくに台湾のファンの方々からはとても熱いパワーを頂きました。本当にありがとうございます。

さて、原作小説の2巻のエピソードが本格的に始まっておりますが、予定よりゆっくりめの進行になっています。それもこれもホロさんとロレンス君がところ構わずイチャイチャしているせいなのです。ここを削ってはみなさまに申し訳が立たないので頑張って描ききる所存です。

また、3巻に引き続きこの巻でもノーラ視点の短編を書かせていただきました。

支倉先生渾身の短編集をうけての小品ではありますが、楽しんでいただければと思い注力しておりました。

ロレンスの逆境と対応した物語にすべく多少暗いお話になってしまいましたが、司祭様に泥をかぶってもらったおかげで意外に笑える内容かもしれません。司祭様を少しだけ弁護すると、女っ気の皆無な社会であんな妖精が目の前をウロウロしていたら正常でいられる方がおかしいという……。

すみません、嘘です。ストーカー良くない。

駄文を長々と続けてしまいました。

執筆にあたって様々なお力添えをくださったすべての関係者様、支倉凍砂先生、文倉十先生、担当編集のＯ氏、Ｔ氏ここまでお読み頂いたすべての読者様に感謝を捧げるものであります。

第五巻へと物語は続きます。

今後とも、原作ともどもコミック版のほうもよろしくお願いいたします。

2010・3・3　小梅けいと

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Editors: Entry-level, Benner
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